

1137 Briar Ridge Lane, Ortonville, MI 48462

Michigan School Board
Leaders Association
www.msbla.org

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To: Renata B. Hesse, Antitrust Division **From:** Lori Yaklin, 810.658.7667
Fax: 202.307.1454 **Pages:** 1, excluding cover page
Phone: **Date:** January 24, 2002
Re: Letter **CC:**

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Thomas E. Bowles
Chairman

Lori Yaklin
Executive Director

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The Microsoft case has occupied the attention of the Justice Department and the American legal system for untold thousands of hours and captured the attention of millions of people. The opinions voiced about the case are varied.

If we break down this anti-trust case, we can see that a true monopoly turns out poor products at exorbitant prices. In fact, if you have a good product at a fair price, it is safe to say that you couldn't possibly have a monopoly. This is why so many people are confounded why the government went after Microsoft - a company that produces great products at competitive prices.

Microsoft has always improved its products with an eye toward consumer demand. Windows has undergone several revisions and improvements over the years. Along the way, Microsoft has phased in and phased out software for the Windows platform that has met - or failed to meet - consumer demand.

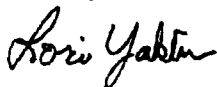
The Court of Appeals, using "consumer harm" as its measure of anti-trust behavior, was right to overturn a lower court ruling last year in the U.S. v. Microsoft case.

Microsoft, because of fierce competition in the technology industry and in response to consumer demand, has always improved its products according to customer feedback. Today the entire Windows platform retails less than anyone would have imagined possible when PCs came into the market back in the 70s and 80s.

If the Court is interested in taking down an insidious monopoly, we respectfully suggest they stop trailing innovative, competitive companies and instead knock on the door of the government-run education system which has caused irreparable damage to a generation of children. Perhaps the Justice Department's Anti-trust Division should take a trip to some of our poorest-performing schools and learn the true definition of "consumer harm."

Free people in free markets creating excellence should not be tamped down by government intervention. We ask that you approve the proposed settlement agreement in the Microsoft anti-trust case.

Sincerely,



Lori Yaklin

3122 Rivershyre Parkway
P.O. Box 608
Davison, Michigan
48423
(810) 658-7667
Fax: (810) 658-7557
www.msbla.org